

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated April 13, 2004. Claims 1-5, 7-11 and 15-17 are pending.

Claim 11 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner in paragraph 10 of the Office Action.

General

For purposes of example, and without limitation, certain example embodiments of this invention relate to a technique for *improving adherence of a reflective pixel electrode in a liquid crystal display (LCD) to an underlying insulating layer*. As shown in Fig. 2A of the instant specification for example, the LCD includes a TFT 43, interlayer insulating film 44, molybdenum nitride (MoN) inclusive film 45 and conductive reflective pixel electrode 46 (e.g., made of Al) which defines at least part of a pixel of the LCD. The reflective pixel electrode 46 is in electrical communication with a drain 54 of the TFT via contact hole 66 defined in the interlayer insulating film 44.

Unexpectedly, it has been found that the use of MoN in layer 45 provides improved adhesion between the reflective pixel electrode 46 and interlayer insulator 44 thereby resulting in better yields, improved durability, and/or the like. Unexpectedly, reduction of electrolytic corrosion is also achieved due to the MoN under the reflective LCD pixel electrode. Thus, the use of MoN in layer 45 is advantageous in an unexpected manner for a number of reasons.

Claim 1

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Mitsui in view of Lee. This Section 103(a) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 requires "a film comprising molybdenum nitride formed immediately below and in contact with the reflective pixel electrode, and above and contacting the interlayer insulator, so that the molybdenum nitride is at least partially located between and contacting each of the reflective pixel electrode and the interlayer insulator so that a bottom surface of the molybdenum nitride is located over and contacting a top surface of the interlayer insulator and a top surface of the molybdenum nitride is located under and contacting the reflective pixel electrode." The cited art fails to disclose or suggest these aspects of claim 1.

The Section 103 rejection of claim 1 is incorrect for at least the following three separate and distinct reasons.

First, the Office Action appears to have misinterpreted Lee. The Office Action contends that Lee discloses a molybdenum nitride barrier layer 49 over the gate electrode. However, in contrast to the Office Action's contention, Lee does not disclose such a layer. While Lee states that a variety of different metals such as Cr, Ta, Mo, Ti, Al, Ni, Pd, Au, Ag, Co, Zr, etc. may be used for barrier layer 49 when the barrier layer is to be a metal, Lee never mentions molybdenum nitride (e.g., col. 7, lines 20-35). The only nitride mentioned by Lee is silicon nitride, which clearly is not molybdenum nitride (col.

7, lines 34-36). Thus, since Lee fails to even disclose a molybdenum nitride barrier layer 49, the alleged Section 103(a) rejection is fatally flawed. Accordingly, even if layer 49 of Lee were used in Mitsui as alleged in the Office Action, the invention of claim 1 still would not be met since the alleged combination still would not have the claimed layer comprising molybdenum nitride.

Second, the reason Lee uses Mo for barrier layer 49 is to prevent anodic oxidation of the *underlying* gate electrode 45 (col. 8, lines 23-27). There is no teaching in Mitsui that there is an anodic oxidation problem with the bottom surface of the pixel electrode – thus, there is no reason why one of ordinary skill in the art would ever have provided a Mo layer in the location alleged by the Office Action. This is especially true since there can be no anodic oxidation problem with the pixel electrode in Mitsui due to the presence of the organic insulation film 42 below the pixel electrode. Again, there is absolutely no reason in the art of record which would have led one of ordinary skill in the art to have provided a Mo layer below the pixel electrode of Mitsui as alleged in the Office Action.

Third, if one of ordinary skill in the art were to use Lee's Mo layer 49 in Mitsui, one would have located it in a position as taught by Lee (i.e., directly over and contacting the gate electrode). If this were done in Mitsui, the Mo layer would be in a similar location directly over the gate electrode, and the invention of claim 1 still would not be met.

For at least the three foregoing reasons, the Section 103(a) rejection of claim 1 is incorrect and should be withdrawn.

Claim 7 requires that "the laminated layer comprises an insulating film and a film comprising molybdenum nitride laminated to and over at least part of the insulating film, so that the molybdenum nitride contacts an upper surface of the insulating film; and a reflective metal film having a light reflecting function and provided in at least one pixel region of the display for contributing to displaying of images in the display, wherein the reflective metal film is formed on the laminated layer so as to contact the molybdenum nitride." The cited art fails to disclose or suggest these aspects of claim 7.

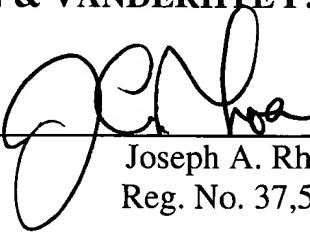
Claim 11 requires "a film comprising molybdenum nitride in direct contact with the under-side of said reflective pixel electrode, so that the molybdenum nitride of said film comprising molybdenum nitride is in direct contact with both (a) the under-side of the reflective pixel electrode and (b) an upper surface of the insulating layer." The cited art fails to disclose or suggest these aspects of claim 11.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

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Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: 

Joseph A. Rhoa  
Reg. No. 37,515

JAR:caj  
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22201-4714  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100